

**Appln No. 09/919,365**  
**Amdt date June 19, 2006**  
**Reply to Office action of December 19, 2005**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating bandwidth within a network domain by a network server operably coupled to a network domain edge node, comprising:

providing a database operably coupled to the network server, the database including path-level data comprising Quality of Service (QoS) information for paths within the network domain and link-level data comprising QoS information for links within the network domain, each of the paths comprising a plurality of links;

receiving by the network server from the network domain edge node a flow request for a requested path;

satisfying by the network server the flow request using the path-level data if the network server determines the network server can satisfy the flow request using the path-level data; and

satisfying by the network server the flow request using the link-level data if there is a lack of path-level data and the network server determines the network server cannot satisfy the flow request using the path-level data.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the path-level data includes for each path unused bandwidth allocated to the path and a path state, the method further comprising satisfying by the network server the flow request using the unused bandwidth if the requested path is not in a critical state and the requested path has enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the link-level data includes for each link quotas of bandwidth available to the link, the method further comprising allocating by the network server to each link along the requested path a quota of bandwidth from

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the quotas of bandwidth available to the link if the requested path does not have enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the link-level data further includes for each link a link state and the path-level data further includes for each path a set of critical links along the path, the method further comprising allocating by the network server bandwidth to each link in the set of critical links from unused bandwidth reclaimed from another path on each link.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A method for allocating bandwidth within a network domain by a distributed network server, the distributed network server including a central network server and a plurality of edge network servers, comprising:

providing a plurality of path-level databases operably coupled to the plurality of edge network servers, the path-level databases including path-level data comprising Quality of Service (QoS) state information for paths within the network domain;

providing a link-level database operably coupled to the central network server, the link-level database including link-level data comprising QoS information for links in the paths within the network domain, each of the paths comprising a plurality of links;

receiving by the distributed network server from a network domain edge node operably coupled to an edge network server a flow request for a path within the network domain;

satisfying by the distributed network server the flow request using the path-level data if the network server determines the distributed network server can satisfy the flow request using the path-level data; and

satisfying by the distributed network server the flow request using the link-level data if the network server determines the distributed network server cannot satisfy the flow request using the path-level data.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the path-level data includes unused bandwidth allocated to the path and a path state, the method further comprising satisfying

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by the edge network server the flow request using the unused bandwidth if the path is not in a critical state and the unused bandwidth is sufficient to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the link-level data further includes quotas of bandwidth available to a link, the method further comprising allocating by the central network server to each link along the path a quota of bandwidth from the quotas of bandwidth available to the link if the path does not have enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the link-level data further includes a link state and the path-level data further includes a set of critical links along the path, the method further comprising allocating by the central network server bandwidth to each link in the set of critical links from unused bandwidth reclaimed from another path on each link.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, the method further comprising rejecting by the edge network server the flow request if a link along the path does not have a quota of bandwidth available to the link for satisfying the flow request

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A data processing system adapted to allocate bandwidth within a network domain, comprising:

- a database including path-level data comprising Quality of Service (QoS) information and link-level data comprising QoS information for a path within the network domain, each of the paths comprising a plurality of links;

- a processor; and

- a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

- receiving from a network domain edge node a flow request for the path;

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satisfying the flow request using the path-level data if the flow request can be satisfied using the path-level data;-and

satisfying the flow request using the link-level data if there is a lack of path-level data and the flow request cannot be satisfied using the path-level data.

Claim 11. (Original) The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the path-level data includes unused bandwidth allocated to the path and a path state, the program instructions further including satisfying the flow request using the unused bandwidth if the path is not in a critical state and the path has enough available unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 12. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the link-level data further includes quotas of bandwidth available to a link, the program instructions further including allocating to each link along the path a quota of bandwidth from the quotas of bandwidth available to the link if the path does not have enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 13. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the link-level data further includes a link state and the path-level data further includes a set of critical links along the path, the program instructions further including allocating bandwidth to each link in the set of critical links from unused bandwidth reclaimed from another path on each link.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media embodying program instructions for execution by a computer, the program instructions adapting a computer to allocate bandwidth within a network domain, program instructions comprising:

accessing a database including path-level data comprising path Quality of Service (QoS) information and link-level data comprising link Quality of Service (QoS) information for a path within the network domain, the path-level data being distinct from the link-level data, each of the paths comprising a plurality of links;

receiving from a network domain edge node a flow request for a path;

satisfying the flow request using the path-level data if the flow request can be satisfied using the path-level data; and

satisfying the flow request using the link-level data if ~~the flow request cannot be satisfied using the path-level data~~ there is a lack of path-level data.

Claim 15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the path-level data includes unused bandwidth allocated to the path and a path state, the program instructions further comprising satisfying the flow request using the unused bandwidth if the path is not in a critical state and the path has enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the link-level data further includes quotas of bandwidth available to a link, the program instructions further comprising allocating to each link along the path a quota of bandwidth from the quotas of bandwidth available to the link if the path does not have enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request.

Claim 17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the link-level data further includes a link state and the path-level data further includes a set of critical links along the path, the program instructions further comprising allocating bandwidth to each link in the set of critical links from unused bandwidth reclaimed from another path on each link.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating bandwidth within a network domain by a bandwidth broker operably coupled to a network domain edge node, comprising:

providing a network QoS state database operably coupled to the bandwidth broker, the network QoS state database including:

path-level data for a path within the network domain, including:

unused bandwidth allocated to the path;  
a set of critical links along the path; and  
a path state; and

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link-level data for links along the path, wherein the path-level data and the link-level data is distinct, the link-level data including:

QoS information for links within the network domain;

quotas of bandwidth available to a link; and

a link state;

receiving by the bandwidth broker from the network domain edge node a flow request for the path;

satisfying by the network server the flow request using the unused bandwidth if the path is not in a critical state and the path has enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request;

allocating by the network server to each link along the path a quota of bandwidth from the quotas of bandwidth available to the link if the path is not in a critical state and the path does not have enough unused bandwidth to satisfy the flow request; and

allocating by the network server bandwidth to each link in the set of critical links from unused bandwidth reclaimed from a another path on each link if the path is in a critical state.

Claim 19 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the database including path-level data is distinct from the database including link-level data.